

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-SIXTH SYNOD

OF THE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MINISTERIUM

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK,

AND ADJACENT STATES AND COUNTRIES.

Convened in the Ev. Luth. Church at Saddle River, N. J., under the pastoral care
of Rev. J. C. Duy, on the 11th and succeeding days of September, 1841.

BALTIMORE:

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1841.

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OF THE

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
A NEW YORK PUBLICATION

BALTIMORE

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1881

FORTY-SIXTH SYNOD
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MINISTERIUM
OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK.

SATURDAY, 11th September, 1841.

In accordance with resolution xxi. of the forty-fifth Synod, the clerical members of the Ministerium and lay delegates from congregations assembled at the Lutheran church in Saddle River, N. J. The services of the sanctuary were conducted in the afternoon by Rev. D. Miller. Text—Matthew xxii. 37. In the evening the services were renewed, Rev. Reuben Dederick preaching from Neh. vi. 3.

SUNDAY, 12th September, 1841.

A numerous congregation assembled in the church. The President, Rev. H. N. Pohlman, delivered the Synodical discourse from Ephesians vi. 10: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was then administered, in which the members of Synod as well as of the congregation united. In the afternoon Rev. N. W. Goertner preached from Matthew iv. 18, 19. In the evening Rev. Jacob Berger preached the Synodical sermon on Temperance, from Rom. xiv. 21. "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing, whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." Rev. Edward Meyer preached in the morning at Ramapo, from Hebrews xii. 16, 17, and in the afternoon from Matthew xvi. 26.

FIRST SESSION.

MONDAY, 13th September, 1841.

The President called the house to order and opened the session with singing and prayer. Upon calling the roll, the Synod appeared to be constituted of the following members:

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

1	REV. H. N. POHLMAN, President,	New Germantown, N. J.
2	" W. D. STROBEL, Secretary,	Prof. Hartwick Theological Seminary.
3	" JACOB BERGER, Treasurer,	Mellenville, Columbia County.
4	" P. F. MAYER, D. D.	Philadelphia.
5	" A. WACKERHAGEN, D. D.	Clermont, Columbia County.
6	" G. B. MILLER, D. D.	Dansville, Livingston County.
7	" H. HAYUNGA,	Waddington St. Lawrence County.
8	" C. A. SMITH,	Baltimore, Md.
9	" R. COLLIER,	Spruce Run, N. J.
10	" N. W. GOERTNER,	Rhinebeck.
11	" W. A. FETTER,	Lockport.
12	" J. F. WINKLER,	Newark, N. J.
13	" WM. F. VEIL,	North Boston.
14	" A. WETZEL,	New London.
15	" E. MEYER,	New York.
16	" DAN. MILLER,	Greenwich, N. J.
17	" J. C. DUY,	Saddle River, N. J.
18	" J. MULHAUSER,	Rochester.
19	" C. F. E. STOHLMAN,	New York.
20	" WM. SHARTZ,	Williamsburg, U. C.

LICENTIATES.

21	REV. R. DEDERICK,	Valatie.
22	" EDWIN TOWN,	Lower Marion, Pa.
23	" GEORGE KEMPE,	Boston.
24	" H. BOKUM,	New York.

ORDAINED MINISTERS ABSENT.

25	REV. J. F. G. UHL,	Churchtown,	excused.
26	" J. W. STARMAN,	Waldoboro, Me.	do.
27	" F. H. GUENTHER,	Buffalo,	do.
28	" F. G. MAYER,	Albany,	do.
29	" F. W. GEISSENHAINER,	New York,	do.
30	" C. B. THUEMMEL,	Lexington, S. C.	do.
31	" J. EISENLORD,	Fayette,	do.
32	" H. I. SMITH,	Gettysburg,	do.
33	" S. DEDERICK,		do.
34	" P. H. DENNLER,	Lyons.	

LICENTIAATE ABSENT.

35	" C. F. SOLDAN,	Poughkeepsie.
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LAY DELEGATES.

1 WM. VAUSBURG,	<i>Germantown and Livingston.</i>
2 JOSEPH SMITH,	<i>New Germantown, N. J.</i>
3 WM. STUPPLEBEEN,	<i>Churchtown and Ghent.</i>
4 F. V. OLDERSHAUSEN,	<i>St. Matthew's, N. Y.</i>
5 WM. MARTINUS,	<i>Spruce Run.</i>
6 PHILIP N. BONESTEEL,	<i>Rhinebeck, (absent.)</i>
7 HENRY ZWIBFF,	<i>North Boston.</i>
8 BENJAMIN SCHULTZ,	<i>Valatie, (absent.)</i>
9 JOHN J. CARPENTER,	<i>Greenwich.</i>
10 JOHN ACHENBACH,	<i>Saddle River.</i>
11 JOHN SIMON,	<i>Newark.</i>

COMMISSIONERS.

1 HEINRICH WEISHOD,	<i>New York.</i>
2 SIMEON TRAVER,	<i>Wittenburg.</i>
3 JOHN P. MARQUART,	<i>do</i>
4 PETER SCHERSTEN,	<i>St. James Church, N. Y.</i>
5 JOHN F. GARDNER,	<i>do. do.</i>
6 ROGER WILLIAMS,	<i>do. do.</i>
7 P. W. ENGS,	<i>(absent.)</i>

DELEGATES FROM OTHER SYNODS.

- 1 REV. Mr. SCHOLL, *Hartwick Synod.*
 2 " Mr. RICHARDS, [who was obliged to leave at an early stage of our proceedings, on account of indisposition.] *Pennsylvania Synod.*

OTHER CLERICAL BRETHERN PRESENT,

Invited to Seats as Advisory Members.

1 REV. MARTIN,	<i>Virginia.</i>
2 " MASCHHOFF,	<i>Newark.</i>
3 " RECKENBERG,	<i>Syracuse.</i>
4 " SAUL,	<i>Albany.</i>
5 " BECKER,	<i>German Reformed Church.</i>

The President's Report (appendix A.) was then read, accepted, and laid on the table for future action.

I. *Resolved*, That the reading of the minutes of last Synod be dispensed with.

The Rev. C. B. Thuemmel having announced his intention to form a union with the Synod of South Carolina,

II. *Resolved*, That we receive with regret the resignation of our esteemed brother, and that the President be requested to forward him letters of honorable dismissal.

The Rev. Simeon Dederick having asked his dismissal from this body,

III. *Resolved*, That the President furnish him with the same so soon as he shall be satisfied, of his intention to form an official connection with some other Lutheran Synod.

Minutes of Synods, communications and resolutions were then called for and laid on the table to be taken up in the order of business.

The following brethren were nominated the committee on minutes—Rev. D. Miller, Goertner, Collier, Dederick, Hayunga and Mr. John J. Carpenter.

The Parochial Reports were then presented as exhibited in the following table:

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

Rev. Dr. MAYER states that there is in his congregation 1 male and 1 female bible class, a society for the relief of the poor of the congregation, a missionary tract and book society, a Sunday school, missionary school, a benevolent sewing society.

More than \$800 have been paid for the support and spread of the gospel in foreign and domestic missions, in the building of churches, in the institution of Sunday school libraries, and the printing and distribution of select tracts.

Three young men, members of the church, are engaged in preparing for the ministry of the gospel, one of whom is assisted by the grant of \$100 per annum.

Rev. Dr. WACKERHAGEN remarks: Since the fall of 1840 I have left the Christian society at Pine Plains, to which I have preached for the space of about 20 years once in a month for two-thirds of the year. The society, from various causes, decreasing in number, and never having been regularly organized since last spring, I have given all my attention to my other two congregations, which seem to increase in attention to the means of grace, and in zealous endeavors to lead Christian lives. Temperance gains more and more advocates, and the bible finds more access to individuals and families.

Rev. Mr. STARMAN states that the congregational and Lutheran churches appointed, last new year, a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, which was attended with a blessing from on high. God answered our prayers, pardoned our unexampled backslidings, revived the graces of his people, and brought a number amongst us to embrace the offers of salvation.

Rev. POHLMAN states that \$40 were collected at the monthly concert of his congregation for foreign missions.

Rev. BERGER has established the monthly concert and total abstinence societies.

Rev. FETTER reports, that in the month of March he accepted a call from the United Lutheran and Reformed church in Clarence, Erie county. German Sunday school books, especially question books for the teachers, are much needed. Much good might be done if I had a faithful co-laborer in this part of the State.

Rev. R. DEDERICK remarks, that during the last spring his people were favored with a season of awakening; temperance efforts

have been renewed in our village with success. Our pledge is total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks.

Rev. Mr. STOHLMAN remarks: It may be necessary to state that the number of communicants is the sum total of all the individuals that have partaken at the four different communion seasons.

That the German Lutheran congregation of St. Matthews have not been "standing in the back ground" they have proved by a late donation of \$250 to the Lutherische Kirchenzeitung with a view of firmly establishing that important organ of our church. With the church is connected a daily school, consisting of about 120 pupils under the care of 3 teachers, and the course of instruction is fundamentally based upon *religious education*. Monthly collections are taken for the support of said school. For about a year past alms-givers have been appointed to provide for the poor by means of the weekly collections in the church with the happiest results.

Rev. J. MULHAUSER mentions that his people collected \$25 for foreign missions.

The President called for the Treasurer's accounts, and nominated the following committee to audit them.

IV. *Resolved*, That Synod adjourn to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by Rev. Dr. Wackerhagen.

MINISTERIAL SESSION.

Prayer by Rev. Dr. Mayer:

The following applications were made.

For admission as members—Rev. F. G. Maschhop, of Newark, and Rev. C. Reckenberg, of Syracuse.

For ordination—Rev. R. Dederick, Rev. E. Town and Rev. G. Kempe.

For renewal of license—Rev. H. Bokum.

For licensure—Rev. George Saul and Mr. Zip.

I. *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed to take these applications into consideration.

The President appointed the following gentlemen:

Rev. Messrs. Mayer, D. D., Wackerhagen, D. D., Berger, Winkler, Scholl, Goertner.

II. *Resolved*, That we adjourn.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Scholl.

SECOND SESSION.

Prayer by the Secretary.

Minutes of former session read and adopted.

Contributions were then called for as exhibited in the following table:

CONTRIBUTIONS.				Synodical.	Missionary.	Education.	Wid. Fund.
Rev. P. F. Mayer, D. D.	-	-	-	7 00			3
St. John's church, Philadelphia	-	-	-		100 00		
Rev. A. Wackerhagen, D. D.	-	-	-				3
Germantown and Livingston	-	-	-	3 00	5 00	3 35	
Rev. F. G. Mayer	-	-	-				3
Ebenezer church, Albany	-	-	-	10 00	10 00		
Rev. G. B. Miller, D. D.	-	-	-	2 00			3
Rev. H. N. Pohlman	-	-	-				3
German Valley	-	-	-	3 50	20 00		
A. Bartles, N. Germ. (produce of Missfi'd)	-	-	-		10 00		
Rev. Jacob Berger	-	-	-				3
Ghent and Churchtown	-	-	-	5 00	10 00		
Rev. F. H. Guenther	-	-	-				3
Buffalo	-	-	-	5 00	5 00		
Rev. J. W. Starman	-	-	-				6
Rev. H. Hayunga	-	-	-				3
Rev. Wm. D. Strobel	-	-	-				3
St. James' church, N. Y.	-	-	-	15 00			
Rev. C. A. Smith	-	-	-				3
Rev. N. W. Goertner	-	-	-				8
Rhinebeck	-	-	-		10 00		
St. James, Greenwich	-	-	-	3 00			
Saddle River	-	-	-	5 00	8 25		
Rev. W. A. Fetter	-	-	-	10 00			
Williamsburg, U. C.	-	-	-			2 50	
Rochester	-	-	-		10 00		
Rev. A. Wetzel	-	-	-				3
Rev. W. F. Veil	-	-	-				3
Wurtemberg	-	-	-	5 00			
Rev. Edwin Town	-	-	-	2 00			
Rev. C. R. Demme, D. D.	-	-	-		25 00		

The President's report was then taken up and read by sections.

V. *Resolved*, That so much of said report as refers to vacant congregations be referred to the Ex. committee of the Missionary Board.

VI. *Resolved*, That so much of it as refers to the congregation worshipping in Franklin School house, Boston, be referred to a committee of three.

The following brethren comprise the committee—Rev. Messrs. Berger, Stohlman and Winkler.

VII. *Resolved*, That so much of the report as refers to the adoption of a definite rule for the removal of a congregation from one Synod to another, be referred to a committee of three.

The following committee was nominated:

Rev. Messrs. Strobel and D. Miller and Joseph Smith, Esq.

VIII. *Resolved*, That so much of the report as refers to the Centenary celebration, be referred to a committee of five.

The President nominated

Rev. Miller, D. D. Berger, C. A. Smith and Messrs. Carpenter and Stupplebeen.

Report of the delegate to the Pennsylvania Synod was presented.

"The undersigned, in obedience to the appointment of the Ministerium, attended the meetings of the Pennsylvania Synod in the month of June last, at Harrisburg, and was received with that affectionate regard, which has ever been manifested toward your delegates.

"The proceedings of that reverend body were rendered peculiarly interesting to him, by the revision of its constitution and the adoption of an improved and enlarged liturgy in the German language.

"He was gratified besides in the highest degree, by the zeal of the Missionary Society of said Synod, in the resolution to establish forthwith a mission in India, and the selection of Rev. Mr. Heyer as their Missionary.

"The subscriber respectfully offers the following resolution:

IX. *Resolved*, That the enlarged and improved liturgy of the Pennsylvania Synod in the German language, be earnestly recommended to all our clergy, who officiate in that language, to be employed in all their public acts and exercises."

PHILIP F. MAYER.

X. *Resolved*, That the report and accompanying resolution be adopted.

The committee on the Treasurer's accounts reported,

That they have examined the same, and find them correct, shewing the following state of the different funds, viz:

A balance due the Treasurer from Synodical fund,	-	-	\$7,46.
A balance due the Missionary fund from Treasurer,	-	-	\$19,04
A balance due the Education fund from the Treasurer,	-	-	\$10,34

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE B. MILLER,
J. C. DUY,
JOSEPH SMITH.

XI. *Resolved*, That the report be accepted.

XII. *Resolved*, That the interference of Rev. Mr. Dennler in the Rochester congregation, calls for the severest censure of this body, and that the President communicate the same to him.

XIII. *Resolved*, That the President's report be adopted and published in the minutes.

XIV. *Resolved*, That we now adjourn to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Berger.

This evening Rev. R. Collier, preached from cxvi. Psalm, 7 verse. At the same time Rev. Daniel Miller preached at Paramus.

The subscribers of the fund for the support of disabled clergymen, &c., held their annual meeting, when the Rev. W. D. Strobel and Rev. N. W. Goertner were elected Trustees for three years—(See appendix B.)

THIRD SESSION.

TUESDAY, 14th September, 1841.

Prayer by Rev. G. B. Miller, D. D.

Minutes of the last session were read and adopted.

The committee appointed under resolution VII, made the following report:

The committee offer the following joint resolutions to be submitted to our sister Synods:

1. That no congregation be received into a Synod until it brings a certificate of regular dismissal from that to which it has hitherto belonged.
2. That when a clergyman takes charge of a congregation not connected with the Synod to which he belongs, we deem it expedient for him to change his connection instead of requiring a change on the part of the congregation.

XV. *Resolved*, That the report and resolutions be adopted.

XVI. *Resolved*, That a newly organized congregation can only be received as a member of this body, upon sending us a copy of their church rules, embracing in them an adoption of our constitution, and by sending a contribution to our Treasury, together with a delegate or commissioner, if it be not impracticable.

The committee appointed under resolution VI reported.

Your committee, appointed to report on the Boston congregation, having given the subject a serious examination, as the result, would take leave to admire the prudence, charity and wisdom displayed by the President of your Ministerium in the management of this delicate and tedious affair, and as, in their view, all further efforts for a reconciliation and reunion between the parties of that once united and happy flock are hopeless, they would exhort the brethren in Boston to act upon the principle adopted by Abraham, as recorded in Gen. xlii. 8.

At the same time they cannot forbear to express their profound regret that the brethren in Franklin School House are exposed to the influence of a man named Hohenholz, who is notoriously unworthy of the sacred office to which he lays claim.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JACOB BERGER,
C. F. E. STOHLMAN,
J. F. WINKLER.

XVII. Resolved, That the report be adopted.

The committee appointed in reference to the contemplated Centenary celebration, would respectfully recommend the following resolutions to this Ministerium:

XVIII. Resolved, That we have read the appeal to the churches made by the General Synod held in May last, and that we cordially respond to the proposition of making an increased effort to promote the cause of piety and the spread of the Redeemer's kingdom as an expression of gratitude to the Head of the church for the blessing that has rested on the Lutheran church for a hundred years past.

XIX. Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the members of our ministerium to lay before their respective congregations the eloquent appeal of the General Synod, and to encourage them to enter into the measure of such a celebration.

XX. Resolved, That each congregation that may feel disposed to join in this work shall be at liberty to dispose of the proceeds of their liberality according to their own discretion.

XXI. Resolved, That we deem the following objects as coming within the view of the contemplated celebration.

1. To aid feeble congregations and carry on our domestic missionary operations on an enlarged scale.
2. To assist indigent young men of proper qualifications in studying for the ministry.
3. To endow an additional professorship for Hartwick Seminary.
4. To make ministers life-members of the Fund for disabled clergymen.

Respectfully submitted.

GEORGE B. MILLER,
C. A. SMITH,
J. BERGER,
WM. STUPPLEBEEN,
JOHN J. CARPENTER.

The report and accompanying resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The committee appointed under resolutions VII and VIII of the last Synod to inquire into the causes which have hindered the growth of our Zion in the city of New York reported. Whereupon it was

XXII. Resolved, That the report be adopted, and that the thanks of the Synod be presented to them for their toilsome, benevolent and faithful labors.

The resignation of Rev. Mr. Geissenhainer, together with a communication from his congregation, were laid on the table.

XXIII. Resolved, That the resignation of Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer shall be accepted so soon as official notice is received of his intention to form a connection with some other Lutheran Synod.

XXIV. *Resolved*, That the resignation of the English congregation worshipping in St. Matthew's church, N. Y. be laid on the table.

XXV. *Resolved*, That we adjourn to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M.
Prayer by Rev. Mr. Hayunga.

MINISTERIAL SESSION.

Prayer by Rev. G. B. Miller, D. D.

Minutes of the former session read and adopted.

The committee on examinations handed in their report.

The committee appointed to consider the applications for admission into this Ministerium, for ordination and for licensure, report

That they have given all the attention to the duty assigned them, which the nature of the several cases would allow, and respectfully recommend

That Rev. Messrs. Maschhop and Reickenberg be received as members of this body according to the provisions of the 10th and 11th paragraphs of 4th chap. of the constitution.

That Rev. Messrs. R. Dederick and George Kempe be ordained.

That a license be granted to candidate George Saul.

P. F. MAYER,
A. WACKERHAGEN,
GEORGE B. MILLER,
N. W. GOERTNER,
WM. N. SCHOLL,
J. F. WINKLER,
JACOB BERGER.

Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Stohlman.

FOURTH SESSION.

2 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by Rev. E. Dederick.

Minutes of last session read and adopted.

A communication from the congregation of St. James', New York, was handed in by her commissioners.

XXVI. *Resolved*, That we sympathise deeply with the congregation of St. James in their present condition, and feel willing to do all in our power to aid them in their struggles to preserve their christian privileges.

XXVII. *Resolved*, That the President be authorized to furnish them with pastoral supplies, until they can make some permanent arrangement.

XXVIII. *Resolved*, That we recommend to them immediate and strenuous efforts to call a Pastor.

Report.

The committee to whom were referred the minutes of the Synods of Ohio and adjacent States, North and South Carolina, Hartwick, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Pennsylvania, beg leave to report that they have attended to the duty assigned them as far as circumstances would permit. The brethren of our sister Synods evince a commendable zeal in the cause of our common Master.

We have found nothing in these minutes having a special reference to us, except the appointment of delegates to this body by the Synods of Hartwick and Pennsylvania.

D. MILLER,
N. W. GOERTNER,
R. DEDERICK,
JOHN J. CARPENTER.

The report was accepted.

XXIX. *Resolved*, That we hail with gratitude the great success which has, during the past year, attended Temperance efforts in our own country and in foreign lands.

The committee on Hartwick Seminary handed in a report, together with a letter from the Trustees of said Institution. (Appendix C.)

XXX. *Resolved*, That the congregations of Frieden's, Zion's, St. John's, Niagara, be received as members of this body.

XXXI. *Resolved*, That we feel great gratification in being informed, that Hartwick Seminary has been revived under favorable auspices, and that we pray that the Divine blessing may rest largely upon it.

XXXII. *Resolved*, That the President return thanks to the congregation, for the very kind and hospitable manner in which we have been entertained during our stay amongst them.

XXXIII. *Resolved*, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet on the 2nd Saturday of September, 1842, in the church at Wurtemburg Dutchess county.

Rev. P. F. Mayer, D. D. was appointed delegate to the Pennsylvania Synod, and Rev. C. F. E. Stohlman his alternate. Professor Strobel was appointed delegate to the Hartwick Synod and Rev. G. B. Miller, D. D. his alternate.

XXXIV. *Resolved*, That we now adjourn.

The brethren then united in singing the Christian farewell, and the President implored the Divine blessing upon the Ministerium, sending up fervent prayers to Almighty God, for the progress of piety in our congregations and the spread of the gospel throughout the world.

MINISTERIAL SESSION.

Minutes of last session read and adopted.

Report of the examining committee taken up.

III. *Resolved*, That the report and its recommendations be adopted.

IV. *Resolved*, That this Ministerium affectionately request the Ebenezer church, Albany, to assist as far as possible the Rev. Mr. Saul in the organization and support of a German Lutheran church in Albany.

V. *Resolved*, That we now adjourn.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Berger.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

TUESDAY EVENING.

At early candle light the congregation assembled in the church, together with the members of the Ministerium. After singing the missionary hymn, prayer was offered up by Rev. George B. Miller, D. D. The chairman of the missionary board detailed our field of operations and gave an abstract of what had been done during the past season, exhibiting a gradual progress of the church as well as improvement in her spiritual character. Several appropriate resolutions were offered and addresses made by Rev. Scholl, Martin, D. Miller, Prof. Strobel, and J. Berger. After the taking up of a collection and singing of a hymn, the President pronounced the benediction.

ORDINATION AND LICENSURE.

WEDNESDAY, 15th September, 1841.

The services of the morning were conducted by Rev. P. F. Mayer, D. D. who preached from . Mr. George Saul was then addressed in the German language by Rev. Dr. Wackerhagen, and upon giving the required pledges was admitted to the order of a licensed candidate. The candidates George Kempe, and Reuben Dederick, having received a solemn charge from the President, and having solemnly engaged to perform the duties of ambassadors of the cross, as well as of members of this body, were set apart by the laying of hands and prayer, to the gospel ministry.

The President returned thanks to the congregation for the kind and hospitable manner in which we had been entertained, and commending them with all the brethren to the care of Almighty God, pronounced the Christian benediction.

We parted, as we have done for many years, convinced that it has been good for us that we have come together, and hoping that these delightful meetings may be only a foretaste of our reunion in the general assembly and church of the first born, which is written in heaven.

I certify that the above is a true record of the proceedings of the fifty-sixth Synod of the Ev. Lutheran Ministerium of the State of New York and adjacent states and countries.

WILLIAM D. STROBEL, Secretary.

(A.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

SADDLE RIVER, N. J., Sept. 13, 1841.

The constitution prescribes that at each annual meeting the President shall give information of all business transacted by him, and of all letters and important advices which he may have received, having any connection with the concerns of the Ministerium.

In obedience to this requisition I proceed, beloved brethren, to lay before you an account of the transactions of the past synodical year. For the sake of reference I shall class the several items under their appropriate heads. And

I. Of Licentiates.

Shortly after the adjournment of Synod several facts in relation to the present usefulness and future prospects of Mr. Herman Bokum, in his labors among the German protestants of the city of New York, were presented for my consideration. After consultation with the former President of this Ministerium, and the Chairman and Secretary of the executive committee of the missionary board, and upon their recommendation I was induced to grant him a license ad interim. He has, since that period, been laboring under the direction of the committee with a good degree of success, and will no doubt present himself for renewal of license at our present session.

Mr. Edwin Town, who was licensed by this body at its meeting in Ghent, in 1839, has been stationed during the past year in Lower Marion, Pennsylvania, in a congregation not in connection with this Ministerium. From his letter it appears that the cause of the Redeemer has prospered under his ministrations.

From the other licentiates no advices have been received during the Synodical year, but from their known character, it is presumed that they have been actively and successfully engaged in their appropriate work, and have not failed in receiving the promised blessing which the Master bestows upon the diligent laborers in his vineyard.

II. Removals and Resignations.

The Rev. G. M. Mertz resigned his charge as pastor of the German congregation in Boston, Mass., on the 14th November last. He has since removed without the bounds of our Synodical district, having received and accepted a call from some congregations in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania. In compliance with his request I gave him letters of dismissal, and commended him to the Christian fellowship and brotherly regards of our sister Synod there.

Under date of November 9, 1840, our brother, the Rev. Simeon Dederick informs me that his engagement with the congregation at Rush had expired, and that he had removed from the place, and intended for a while to follow a different calling from that of the ministry. While we regret the circumstances which have induced our brother to take this step, we cannot but acquiesce in the justness of his conclusions,

and join with him in the wish that ere long, under more favorable auspices, he may again be engaged in the work to which he has consecrated his life.

About the first of January the Rev. Mr. Kempe resigned his charge of the congregation at Syracuse, and by the direction of the President assumed the duties of pastor in the German congregation at Boston. We cherish the hope, notwithstanding the many difficulties which have met him on the very threshold of his engagement, that he may yet be the means, under God, of healing the disorders, and building up the waste places among that interesting but distracted people.

At the same period, as I have been informed by the Secretary, our reverend brother, J. F. Winkler, resigned his station as pastor of St. John's church, Newark, and was succeeded in his labors by the Rev. Mr. Maschhop of the German Reformed church, who will doubtless connect himself with this body at its present session.

In the month of April our brother, the Rev. Wm. D. Strobel, took leave of his beloved people of the congregation of St. James, New York, among whom he had labored so abundantly for the last ten years, to take charge of the interests of our school of the prophets at Hartwick. While we sympathise with his bereaved congregation, and regret his removal from active pastoral duties, we pray God that he may be pre-eminently useful in his new sphere, and may be the instrument of sending many a laborer into the vineyard, and of raising many a polished shaft to adorn and beautify the temple of our God.

In a late letter our brother, the Rev. C. B. Thuemmel informs me that he has removed to Lexington Court House, South Carolina, as principal of the Lexington Literary Institute, connected with the Theological Seminary under the superintendence of our friend, Dr. Hazelius. Under the prospects of usefulness which open for him there, he deems it advisable to connect himself with the evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Carolina, and asks of his brethren of this Ministerium an honorable dismissal from their body. He adds: "I regret thus to tear asunder my connection with the Synod of New York, of which I have been a member since 1827; but I trust that my brethren will still continue to regard me as a member of the Widow's Fund, and bestow on me such other privileges, as are usually granted, according to the constitution, to former members."

III. *Absent Members.*

Brother Starman has sent his annual report, and begs the Ministerium to excuse his non-attendance at this meeting on account of his advanced age, and the great distance he would have to travel. There can be no hesitancy in acknowledging the validity of his excuse, though I have no doubt it would afford the brethren much pleasure to see his face once more in the flesh, and to hear from his own lips an account of the dealings of God with him in his far distant station.

Brother Eisenlord informs me, in a late letter, that the evangelical Lutheran congregation of Jerusalem's church, in Fayette, Seneca county, have given him a renewed call for a certain number of years. He has also forwarded his report, and prays to be excused for his non-attendance, on account of the distance and his peculiar circumstances.

IV. *Consecration.*

On Luther's birth day, the 10th of November last, the church erected by our German brethren in Newark, N. J., was set apart and consecrated by appropriate solemnities to the worship of Almighty God. The services continued during two days, and were conducted in the German language by the Rev. Dr. Demme, President of the Pennsylvania Synod, C. F. E. Stohlman, F. W. Geissenhainer and Edward

Meyer, and in the English, by the President and Secretary. We trust the exercises of the occasion will not soon be forgotten, and that the worshippers in the evangelical Lutheran church of St. John will give evidence in all future time that the kindness and liberality of their friends have not been exerted towards them in vain.

V. Vacant and Destitute Congregations.

By the removal of so many of the brethren during the past year many congregations are vacant, and demand the immediate attention of the Ministerium for their supply. The congregation at Wurtzburg has been destitute of the stated ministrations of the word for more than a year. The officers of that church made application to me during the summer to furnish them with a minister. Brother Collier was sent there, and labored among them for some time. I have also visited them, and endeavored to reconcile some of the differences existing there. Mr. Rumpf, of the Hartwick Synod has preached for them several times, and they have also been occasionally supplied from other quarters. I earnestly hope that such arrangements may be made during this session as may supply them permanently with the bread and water of life. The congregations at Rush and Syracuse and Friesburg have, as far as my knowledge of their situation extends, been destitute of a stated ministry since the resignation of their respective pastors.

The congregation of St. James, in the city of New York, more especially calls for the fostering care of this Ministerium. I have visited them several times since their destitution, and their pulpit has been occasionally filled by the brethren who reside in the vicinity. Preliminary measures have also been taken to erect a new church in another and better location; but something more must be done to promote the interests of our beloved church in that important city. You need not be reminded that an influence goes forth from all our great cities, which is felt in every part of our extensive country, and if we are anxious to benefit the church universally we must be peculiarly attentive to the condition of our city churches. The Ministerium have not been unmindful of their duty in this respect, and at their last session appointed a committee to inquire into the causes which have hindered the growth of our Zion in the city of New York. I had the pleasure of attending the meetings of that committee, and when they report I trust some plan may be devised which will have a tendency to invigorate our drooping church there, build up her waste places, lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes.

Besides the congregations which are destitute of the preached word, there are others in our connection, who, though their eyes see their teachers, are, nevertheless, earnestly looking to this body for countenance and support. Among these I have been requested to mention one, and I do it with pleasure, because its claims have been hitherto in a great measure overlooked. I refer to the congregation of our aged brother Starman. He says in his letter: "The Lutherans in Waldo-borough are, for the greatest part, in very poor circumstances, and the support they give to the ministry is very scanty. I have often solicited some assistance for them from the Synod of which I have been so long a member, but with the exception of ten dollars received several years ago, my requests have been altogether unattended to. My hope of any aid from that quarter is nearly expired. It seems the sympathy of my brethren does not reach to their brethren in Maine. Will you not have the goodness to speak a word in favor of my church. Direct once more the attention of the Synod to their destitute situation, and ask for some contribution for the support of the gospel amongst them. The Synod cannot bestow its gifts upon a people that more needs them, or who will more thankfully receive them."

This is but a specimen of communications received almost every month from various parts of our widely spread connection, and this the subject of them all—congregations famishing for the bread and water of life, and pastors starving for the bread that perisheth. It seems to me the church at large is not half awake to her responsibilities and duties. She is but too apt to say to her famishing children: "Be ye warmed and filled," notwithstanding she gives them not those things which are needful for the body, and what doth it profit? That God may impart a more enlarged spirit of liberality to our churches, and make us more attentive to the wants and woes of our brethren is my ardent prayer.

VI. *Congregational Difficulties.*

Notwithstanding the hope expressed in a former part of this report, that brother Kempe would succeed in healing the differences among the German brethren in Boston, I regret to inform this body that a large proportion of the congregation worshipping in Franklin school house are still dissatisfied, and are desirous of obtaining the services of another minister. Much correspondence has been held upon the subject, and I have at length reluctantly promised to do all in my power to aid them in procuring and sustaining another minister among them. I acquiesced in this measure not because my better judgment approved of it; but because of the peculiar circumstances of the case, because in their view it was absolutely necessary and because of their reiterated assertions that they would unite under the care of Mr. Kempe on no consideration whatever. The whole matter, together with the correspondence, and the report of the committee appointed at the last Synod, is submitted for the consideration of this body.

Some difficulties in the congregation at Wurtemberg arising out of the proceedings of Synod in the session of 1838, have I trust been amicably adjusted since my visit there. And that congregation is now prepared, I would hope, to return to their first love, and to declare their renewed attachment to this body of which they have formed a component part ever since its first organization.

In the month of March I received a communication from the elders and deacons of the evangelical Lutheran Frieden's congregation of Lockport, under the pastoral care of brother Fetler, in reference to an encroachment upon their right by a member of the Hartwick Synod. But as that congregation has never been officially connected with this Ministerium, either by the appointment of a delegate, or by acceding to our constitution, I deemed it my duty respectfully to decline giving any opinion in the matter. While upon this subject I would suggest the propriety of establishing some definite rule with regard to the reception or withdrawing of congregations from our connection. It is true, a committee was appointed, in connection with one from the Hartwick Synod several years ago to take this subject into consideration, but their labors, if ever entered into, have never been brought to a conclusion.

Sometime in February I received through Dr. Wackerhagen, our former President, a communication from a brother in the Pennsylvania Synod, residing in Seneca co., N. Y., accusing one of our clerical brethren of undue interference in his congregation. I gave such advice as, under the state of the case, I deemed necessary. Since then I presume the whole matter has been amicably settled, as I have received no farther information in relation to it.

VII. *The General Synod.*

I had the pleasure of attending the late meeting of this body as one of the representatives of this Ministerium, and cannot refrain from expressing my warm approbation of the manner in which its business was conducted, and the spirit of brotherly

love which pervaded the hearts of its members. Among many other important measures presented for our consideration, there was one which will require the further action of this Synod. I refer to the Centenary celebration. There may be a diversity of views and an honest difference of opinion among many of the brethren, as to the propriety of entering into such a celebration at this particular time. But "it is good to sing praises unto our God, for it is pleasant, and praise is comely," and at no time can it be inappropriate to pour forth to God, the thanksgivings of our hearts for his peculiar blessings to us, as a distinct portion of his church, and to pledge ourselves by increased faithfulness and fervour in prayer, close and pungent preaching of the gospel, frequent holding of conference meetings, and by special and systematic exertions in obtaining funds for the support of the benevolent institutions of the church, to promote her spiritual and temporal interests. But the whole matter will be brought before you in the report of the delegation, and I trust such a course will be adopted by this Ministerium, as will meet with the divine approbation, and render the coming year, a year of rich blessing and abundant increase.

VIII. Conclusion.

In conclusion, permit me, beloved brethren, "to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance," to remind you that we are engaged in a great work, and that the benevolent operations of our church demand and deserve our united and untiring efforts. "There remaineth yet much land to be possessed." Many fruitful hills and verdant plains and fertile vallies, within the bounds of our Zion, hitherto uncultivated, call for the labors of the faithful husbandman, that they may bring forth fruit unto holiness, and in the end glorify God. And the voice of the Master saith: Go forward, enter into the land and possess it. And shall we fail to discern "the signs of the times," and turn a deaf ear to the voice from heaven. Our churches need to be aroused. Many of them are yet asleep, and even the most active among them are not half awake, or long ere this they would have come up as one man "to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty." And can we slumber when so many mighty interests are involved, when such a vast amount of responsibility rests upon us? Every view of the subject we have been able to take, has deepened the impressions upon our minds, that it is high time to awake out of sleep. The watchword of the skies is sounding in our ears: Onward, onward, for God and for thy brother! Our relation to the great Redeemer and Judge as the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God, urge us, as we would be found faithful, to move onward. The scenes of that great day when the retribution of eternity will await the faithful pastor, re-echo the cry—Onward! Onward! May these considerations be "as a fire in the bones," and constrain us to renewed and untiring efforts in the cause of our Master. Thus will we go on and prosper, and having served our generation according to the will of God, we will rejoice hereafter to see the starry crown put upon our heads, and applauding angels sing the promise, then realized in all its fullness, "*They that be wise, shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.*"

HENRY N. POHLMAN, *President.*

(B.)

REPORT

Of the Trustees of the Fund for the support of Disabled Clergymen and the Widows and Orphans of deceased Clergymen.

In accordance with instructions to that effect, measures were taken to procure an act of Incorporation for this body at the last session of the legislature of the state of New York. The effort proved successful. The board, however, could not meet for organization until the 10th inst., when the following officers were chosen for the coming year.

WM. D. STROBEL, *President.*

NICHOLAS W. GOERTNER, *Secretary.*

JACOB BERGER, *Treasurer.*

Upon deciding the term of service of each Trustee, it was settled that Rev. Jacob Berger, P. N. Bonesteel, Benjamin Schultz, were to serve for three years. Rev. F. Mayer and P. W. Engs, for two years. Rev. W. D. Strobel, and Rev'd. N. W. Goertner for one year, so that the term of service of the two latter expires at the present meeting of the subscribers.

The Treasurer of the Ministerium has transferred the following assets to this Board:

Stock in Bowery Insurance Company,	- - - - -	\$125 00
Messrs. Broadhead & Wackerhagen's note,	- - - - -	600 00
Cash in hand,	- - - - -	493 35
		\$1,218 35

which, together with the stereotype plates, constitutes the present value of the widow's fund.

Judging from the past, the estimated income, without any increase of subscribers, will be \$240 per annum.

The committee desire to recommend the following alterations in the by-laws. In paragraph IX. change the word *five* into *four*.

At the end of paragraph V append the following words, "or the board may receive at their discretion the sum of 50 dollars at any one time to constitute an individual a life subscriber, in commutation of all other subscriptions."

In conclusion we would observe, that the fund is rapidly growing, and that there is a prospect of establishing it upon a substantial basis. All that is now needed is that our brethren should come forward with one accord and place themselves upon the list of subscribers to secure this desirable object.

WM. D. STROBEL, *President.*

N. W. GOERTNER, *Secretary.*

10th September, 1841.

(C.)

HARTWICK SEMINARY, 25th August, 1841.

To the President and Members of the Ev. Lutheran Ministerium of the State of New York.

The undersigned Trustees of Hartwick Seminary, beg leave respectfully to represent, that they have enlarged their Academy buildings by adding two wings, which will very conveniently accommodate thirty-two students, giving each two, a room for

lodging and study. The Seminary buildings can with very little expense be made to accommodate a hundred students.

The Trustees have also employed the Rev. Wm. D. Strobel, as principal; Rev. J. F. Winkler, as assistant professor, and another assistant teacher; and they state with much satisfaction, that the Seminary, after a suspension of nearly two years, has again commenced operations under flattering auspices.

The Trustees have at all times been quite anxious to carry into effect, the object of the donor, which appears to have been mainly devoted to purposes of religion, but their means have restricted them to the very limited expense of giving gratuitous instruction to divinity students.

The large expenses which have recently been incurred will not now enable the Trustees to place the Theological department of the institution on so liberal and useful a footing as is desirable, but they feel confident that, with the co-operation of the Lutheran churches in this state, the Seminary can in all its departments be placed in the most flattering situation, and be made to answer all the useful purposes desired.

The Trustees hope that the Lutheran church every where will feel a deep interest in the advancement of the Hartwick Institution, and in giving it such aid as may be secured by a united and vigorous effort.

We remain with great respect, yours, &c.

W. C. BOUCK, *Pres't. pro. tem.*

ROBT. CAMPBELL, *Sec'y.*

(D.)

REPORT

Of the Committee on Hartwick Seminary.

The examination of the students of Hartwick Seminary took place on the 24th of August, and it is but just to say that the result was highly creditable to all the members of the institution. The literary exercises of the evening, conducted by the members of the Philophronean Society, afforded general satisfaction, and were listened to by a crowded auditory with marked interest.

The Trustees of Hartwick Seminary, at their annual meeting in the fall of 1840, appointed the Rev. Wm. D. Strobel principal of the institution, and resolved to enlarge the Seminary edifice, so as to afford lodging rooms for the students, and have them constantly under the supervision of one of the professors. Mr. Strobel accepted his appointment, and entered upon the discharge of his duties in May last. The Seminary has been re-opened under the most flattering auspices; twenty students were in attendance the past term, all of whom have made commendable and encouraging progress in the various branches of learning to which they have devoted themselves; and it is probable that the number of students will increase next term to at least thirty-five. Two wings have been added to the main building, each 40 feet in length, and two stories high. The entire edifice is now 125 feet long. When finished, there will be 32 rooms for the accommodation of students.

The Trustees have resolved to spare no efforts, that Hartwick Seminary may be placed on an equality with the best literary institutions in our country; and they are determined also to give prominence to its *Theological* character, and make it answer, in this respect, the intention of its generous founder and the wishes of its best friends. Consequently, they have appointed the Rev. J. F. Winckler, of Newark, N. J.,

asistant professor. Those who are acquainted with Mr. W. will regard this appointment as eminently judicious. Besides, the board of Trustees have provided for the appointment of a tutor, who will perform a part of the labor which has hitherto devolved upon the other professors, and thus enable them to devote an adequate portion of their time to the instruction of theological students.

In adopting these arrangements, the Trustees wish to give evidence to the church that they are determined to do all in their power to elevate the character of the institution, and afford to theological students advantages as great as can be found anywhere else; and they look with confidence for the support of our Synods and congregations, that they may be enabled to enlarge the present plan, and impart to it still greater efficiency.

The centenary year is approaching, and should our congregations, in connection with the Synods of this state, only contribute enough for the endowment of another professorship, say ten or twelve thousand dollars, the means of pursuing a theological course will be sufficiently ample; and should the amount be increased to \$20,000 (as has been suggested by some) the course of instruction would be still more thorough, as each professor would devote more time to the branches of study intrusted to him. With such an endowment, the present preparatory department might eventually become a college, and young men preparing for the ministry could then pursue at Hartwick, a regular collegiate as well as theological education. Even according to the existing arrangement, all the branches of collegiate study may be pursued by those who have the disposition to do so.

Respectfully submitted.

C. A. SMITH.

ADDENDA.

PAROCHIAL REPORT.

Wm. F. Veil.—Congregations 2; Baptisms—infants 23, con. 12; No. of individuals communed 265; deaths 4; funerals 8; Sund. School—teachers 1; Scholars 40; Post Office—North Boston, Erie co. N. Y.

P. F. Dennler.—Congregations 1; Baptism—infants 22; con. 6; No. individuals communed 149; deaths 3; funerals 9; Sund. School—teachers 1; adults 6; children 11; Post Office—Lyons, Wayne co., N. Y.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

P. F. Dennler—Widow's Fund,

